

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (currently amended) A method for securing and for temporarily removing a nasal mask from a user's head, ~~as set forth in claim 10,~~ comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing said nasal mask with an upper portion releasably connected to a brow bar which is secured to the user's forehead with an upper strap;
 - b) releasably attaching said lower portion of said nasal mask to the user's head

with a lower strap wherein said lower portion of said nasal mask is releasably attached to the user's head by positioning an elastic lower strap which extends continuously around the user's head in a recess in said lower portion of said mask; and

c) temporarily removing said mask by removing said lower strap from said nasal mask recess and disconnecting said upper portion of said mask from said brow bar while leaving said brow bar secured to the user's forehead.

14. (currently amended) A method for securing to a user's head a nasal mask having an upper portion and a lower portion comprising the steps of:

a) attaching a brow bar to headgear;

b) attaching said headgear to a user's head with said brow bar positioned on the user's forehead, said headgear having an upper strap which extends from said brow bar around the user's head and having an elastic lower strap which extends continuously around the user's head;

c) attaching said upper portion of said nasal mask to said brow bar; and

d) attaching said lower strap to said lower portion of said nasal mask.

15. (original) A method for securing a nasal mask to a user's head, as set forth in claim 14, and wherein said upper portion of said nasal mask is attached to said brow bar prior to attaching said headgear to the user's head.

16. (currently amended) A method for securing a nasal mask to a user's head, as set forth in claim 15, and wherein said lower strap is attached to said lower portion of said nasal mask by placing said lower strap in a recess in said lower portion of said nasal mask.

17. (original) A method for securing a nasal mask to a user's head, as set forth in claim 14, and wherein said upper portion of said nasal mask is attached to said brow bar after attaching said headgear to the user's head.

18. (currently amended) A method for securing a nasal mask to a user's head, as set forth in claim 17, and wherein said lower strap is attached to said lower portion of said nasal mask by placing said lower strap in a recess in said lower portion of said nasal mask.

19. (new) A method for securing a nasal mask having an upper portion and a lower portion to a user's head comprising the steps of:

a) providing headgear having an upper resilient strap secured to a brow bar and having a lower resilient strap which forms a continuous loop;

b) positioning the headgear on a user's head so that the brow bar is held by the upper resilient strap against the user's forehead and the lower resilient strap extends around the patient's head below the patient's nose;

c) releasably connecting the upper portion of said nasal mask to said brow bar;

d) positioning the resilient lower strap to extend over the lower portion of the nasal mask to hold the lower portion against the user's head.

20. (new) A method for securing a nasal mask to a user's head, as set forth in claim 19, and wherein the upper portion of the nasal mask is connected to the brow bar to pivot relative to the brow bar, and further including the step of positioning the nasal mask to extend over the user's nose by pivoting the nasal mask relative to the connected brow bar prior to positioning the resilient lower strap to extend over said lower portion of the nasal mask.

21. (new) A method for securing a nasal mask to a user's head, as set forth in claim 20, and wherein the lower portion of said nasal mask includes a recess which is located between the user's nose and mouth when the mask is positioned to extend over the user's nose, and wherein the resilient lower strap is positioned in the recess.